

4372 Cass Court
Webster, MN 55088
July 22, 2009

Mr. Scott Ek
Office of Energy Security and Energy Facility Planning
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Dear Mr. Ek:


As a resident of Sky Harbor Airpark, I am writing to officially object to the proposed reroute or use of the alternate route published recently for the CapX2020 project. I understand the reroute of the CAPX2020 Brookings to Hampton line may bring the 200 foot towers within ½ mile of the Sky Harbor Airpark (1MN8) located in Webster, Minnesota.


The proposed alternate route places these towers DIRECTLY INTO THE PUBLISHED AIRPORT TRAFFIC PATTERN of the state's largest residential airpark. With over 70 registered aircraft using the field, this is a significant and unacceptable risk to safe navigation that could result in loss of lives.

Sky Harbor Airpark has also been used numerous times for emergency medical helicopter operations. These operations may occur during times of adverse weather making the towers an even greater danger. We also have, on occasion, had gliders from Stanton Airport use this facility when the gliders were not able to return to their home airport. Gliders by nature have very low angles of approach to landing, and these towers would pose a very real threat to their maneuvers.

The FAA and Minnesota Department of Aeronautics have numerous regulations on record regarding the construction of tall towers near airports. I would like to stress the importance of compliance with these regulations.

Sincerely,


Melanie K. Deering

C:  Ms. Stephanie Strength
Environmental Protection Specialist
USDA Rural Utilities Service
1400 Independence Avenue SW, Mail Stop 1571
Washington, DC 20250-1571

I-244-001

This federal scoping process is specific to only the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project. As such, we have forwarded your comments to the project team dealing with the project with which you have raised concerns.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.